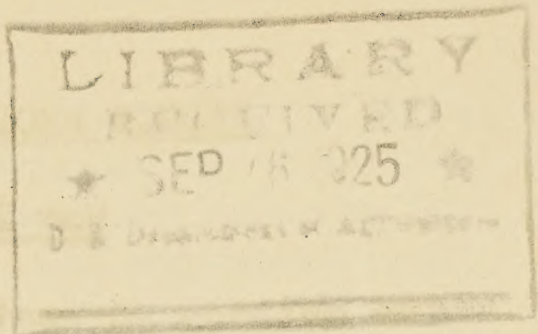


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service
Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

REDUCE PRODUCTION COSTS

A booth pictorial exhibit showing desirable methods of handling, breeding and feeding cattle, hogs, and sheep.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 13 ft. front, 8 ft.
Wall space - - - - - None. (deep.
Shipping Weight - - - - - 525 lbs.
Electrical Requirements - None.

REDUCE PRODUCTION COSTS

How It Looks

The methods advocated to reduce production costs are shown, in this exhibit, by the pictorial method. The illustrations in the exhibit are accurately and well colored, enlarged photographs of appropriate scenes and animals.

The center section contains two large pictures, one of a herd of cattle grazing on a western ranch and the other of steers eating at the bunk on a Corn Belt farm. The text on this section is short, terse, and to the point.

The left section is devoted to hog production and the illustrations show a prolific sow and her young; hogs on a legume pasture; and hogs in the feeding pen. Only enough text is used to explain the pictures briefly.

The right section is devoted to sheep and shows pictures of a good ram and ewe, two flocks of sheep on a western range. The text explains the value of purebreds and how to maintain a supply of feed.

The booth is 13 feet across the front, 8 feet deep and 7 feet high.

What It Tells

Cost of production of livestock is influenced by many different factors. High production costs may be due to inferior quality of animals, faulty breeding methods, poor feeding practices, improper housing, unbalanced farm system, or insufficient size of business. The lowering of these costs is largely a question of management and in many instances more practical and less expensive methods of production can be used.

The exhibit illustrates desirable methods of handling livestock, and outlines good practices in the breeding and feeding of cattle, hogs, and sheep.

In the management of beef cattle, feeders should be raised on cheap land, and fattened in regions where corn is plentiful. On the range native grasses should

be given opportunity to reseed themselves by proper grazing practices. An extra feed supply should be kept on hand for times of pasture shortage and for long winters. In the feed lot the equipment (and this applies with equal importance to all livestock management) should be practical and labor-saving, but not elaborate and expensive. For growing animals a liberal amount of protein should be provided in the ration. This can usually be supplied at the least cost in the form of legumes. The calf crop can be increased by eliminating from the herd all shy breeders, non-breeders and old cows, by having bulls in vigorous breeding condition, and by keeping the animals healthy.

In hog management, often more attention is given to the feeding of fattening hogs, than to the breeding sows. Inattention and carelessness during gestation and at farrowing may cause great losses. One of the most practical methods of reducing swine production costs is to increase the number of pigs raised per sow. Sows of the brood-sow type should be selected for breeding. They should themselves be chosen from large litters. After the sow has farrowed, every effort should be made to save the young pigs. Sows and pigs may be turned on pasture early. Access to a self-feeder where corn is supplied ^{supplement} to the sow's milk may be provided in a creep for the young pigs.

Correct sheep management differs from the management of cattle and hogs only in the details. The net profits should be made as large as possible by keeping the ewes healthy the year around and in a gaining condition at breeding time, by discarding barren ewes and old ewes with broken mouths, by selecting vigorous rams of fixed type showing masculinity, and by careful attention during lambing. On the range care should be used in grazing in order to protect the grazing lands, and legume hays should be fed with cheap roughages where grazing is not available. Stomach worms increase production costs, especially on farms, and these should be prevented by pasture rotation and bluestone treatment.

Where to Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

- Farmers' Bulletin 1437 - Swine Production
- Farmers' Bulletin 1244 - Diseases, Ailments, and Abnormal Conditions of Swine
- Farmers' Bulletin 1263 - Breeds of Swine
- Farmers' Bulletin 1357 - Castration of Hogs
- Farmers' Bulletin 612 - Breeds of Beef Cattle
- Farmers' Bulletin 1073 - Growing Beef on the Farm
- Farmers' Bulletin 1135 - Beef Calf, Its Growth and Development
- Farmers' Bulletin 1167 - Essentials of Animal Breeding
- Farmers' Bulletin 1179 - Feeding Cottonseed Products to Livestock
- Farmers' Bulletin 1382 - Fattening Steers in Corn Belt
- Farmers' Bulletin 1395 - Beef-Cattle Production in Range Area
- Farmers' Bulletin 1416 - Fattening Beef Calves
- Farmers' Bulletin 840 - Farm Sheep Raising for Beginners
- Farmers' Bulletin 1330 - Parasites and Parasitic Diseases of Sheep
- Yearbook Separate 882 - Hog Production and Marketing